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Higher Education and Workforce  
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Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

**State Representative Rick Perales**  
Ohio's 73<sup>rd</sup> House District: Western Portion of Greene County

**Ways and Means Committee**  
**House Bill 351 Sponsor Testimony**  
**Representative Rep. Rick Perales**  
**October 31, 2017**

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee. I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 351.

This legislation will exempt municipal income tax on earnings while members of the uniformed services are on active duty. The Uniformed Services consist of the 5 Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, including the guard and reserve components), the US Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Armed services already receive this exemption in Ohio, leaving the other two components of the Uniformed Services excluded.

Some may ask: Why should the USPHS and NOAA receive this exemption? If I may, I would like to spend a few moments recounting the ways these two services have answered the call of duty.

The Officers of the USPHS and NOAA are deployed in hazardous, emergency situations. They were there for the aftermath of 9/11, and the anthrax attacks in Washington DC, New York, Florida, and New Jersey. When Hurricane Katrina

devastated the Gulf region in 2005, they were there. They were there to respond to the Haitian Earthquake and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Atlantic Coast in 2012; when help was needed, they were there. Who could neglect to mention their prolonged and repeated deployments to West Africa and throughout the United States in 2014 and 2015 as part of the Ebola response? These examples show that although these men and women are often not on the front lines we typically picture, they put their health and safety on the line to protect all American citizens from harm.

What about the fiscal effect on municipalities? After meeting with the Ohio Municipal League, they did not oppose the bill. Their lack of opposition shows this legislation will have a negligible fiscal impact on municipalities, and only help those who respond in our time of need.

When needed, USPHS and NOAA commissioned officers can be militarized by the President just like the Coast Guard. These Women and Men in uniform sign up to sacrifice when called. I think this bill will show them the proper respect and gratitude for their willingness to serve.

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee. Thanks again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 351. I will be glad to answer any questions.